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## MINISTRY OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE

### RESOLUTION

#### CUSTOMS TARIFF

*New Delhi, the 17th March 1964*

**No. 10(8)/63-GATT.**—The present structure of the Indian Customs Tariff follows, in its broad aspects, the League of Nations Draft Customs Nomenclature, prepared by the Sub-Committee of Experts of the Economic Committee of the League of Nations, set up in 1927. In the post-war period, new classifications and nomenclature of products have been evolved to suit the changed pattern of international trade. One of them is the "Brussels Tariff Nomenclature" prepared by the European Customs Union Study Group, 1955, which claims to have taken into account the common features of the tariff nomenclatures of the seventeen European countries which constituted the Group and also the latest technological and commercial developments. Another is the "Standard International Trade Classification" prepared by the United Nations Organisation for compilation of national trade statistics on a uniform basis.

2. With the implementation of the successive Five Year Plans, considerable progress has been made in industrial and economic development leading to a substantial change in the composition and pattern of India's external trade. Both the Government of India and the business community have, therefore, felt the need for a detailed study of the present tariff with a view to revising it on modern lines and in a manner which, having regard to the pattern and composition of India's external trade, will be more appropriate. The need for a complete reform of the Indian Customs Tariff has also been stressed in the reports submitted by the various Committees and Commissions set up by the Government of India from time to time, the most recent among them being the Shri A. Ramaswami Mudaliar Committee. The Government of India have accordingly decided to appoint a Committee to conduct a comprehensive enquiry into the Indian Customs Tariff structure and to recommend the lines on which it may be revised and improved.

3. The Committee will consist of the following:—

*Chairman*

- (1) Joint Secretary to be nominated by the Ministry of International Trade.

*Members*

- (2) An Officer to be nominated by the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue).  
(3) An Officer to be nominated by the Department of Technical Development.  
(4) An Officer to be nominated by the Ministry of Industry.  
(5) An Officer to be nominated by the Department of Iron & Steel.  
(6) An Officer to be nominated by the Department of Mines and Metals.  
(7) An Officer to be nominated by the Ministry of Petroleum and Chemicals.  
(8) A representative of the Tariff Commission, Bombay.  
(9) An Officer to be nominated by the Chief Controller of Imports and Exports.  
(10) A representative of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry.  
(11) A representative of the All India Manufacturers' Organisation, Bombay.  
(12) A representative of the All India Importers Association, Bombay.  
(13) A representative of the All India Exporters' Chamber, Bombay.  
(14) A Joint Director of Export Promotion to be nominated by the Ministry of International Trade.

*Member Secretary*

- (15) A senior Officer to be nominated by the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue).

4. The following will be the terms of reference of the Committee:—

- (1) To examine the present structure of the Indian Customs Tariff (Import and Export) Schedule with reference to the composition of products and pattern of India's import and export trade.  
(2) In the light of the examination made under item (1) and having regard to the international developments and changed pattern of trade, to recommend whether the Import Tariff Schedule should be based on the Brussels Tariff Nomenclature or other international nomenclature or whether India may continue to have its separate Import Tariff Schedule after necessary improvement.  
(3) To advise the Government of India regarding the lines on which the Customs Tariff Schedule should be revised, with particular reference to the need for—  
(a) the creation of additional tariff items for articles of recent development and of commercial importance;  
(b) revision of the classification of machinery, iron and steel and textiles in the context of the changed pattern of trade; and  
(c) provision for assessment of parts of articles.  
(4) To recommend suitable amendments to the classifications and nomenclature of the Export Tariff Schedule.  
(5) To review the substantive provisions of the Indian Tariff Act, 1934, Tariff (Amendment) Act, 1949 as well as other relevant legislations and to recommend modifications or amendments required in respect of them.  
(6) To make such other recommendations as may seem germane to the objective of the enquiry.

5. The Committee is not required to go into the question of the rates of duty applicable in respect of individual products or the different classes of products and it will not be concerned with the level of duty applicable under the Customs Tariff.

6. The Committee may coopt members as may be necessary from time to time.

7. The Committee will submit its report to the Government of India within one year from the date of its appointment.

ORDER

Ordered that a copy of the Resolution be communicated to all concerned.

Ordered also that the Resolution be published in the Gazette of India, for general information.

C. S. RAMACHANDRAN, Jt. Secy.

